



# ZIONISM & ANTI-ZIONISM: The history of two opposing ideas

## EPISODE 3: RELIGION RELIGIOUS ANTI-ZIONISM & RELIGIOUS ZIONISM

For millennia, Jewish faith and tradition have always allowed for, and even encouraged, debate and disagreement. Zionism is no different in this respect. In this episode, we meet Rav Abraham Isaac Kook, a wellspring of Jewish and Zionist thought with a deep influence on the religious Zionist movement today. Additionally, we focus on the sources underlying Jewish religious anti-Zionism and its impacts on contemporary debate. We also look at varying views of Zionism from Christian leaders, some supportive and some fiercely oppositional.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did religious Jews initially oppose Zionism? What were the Three Oaths? | **Timecode: 3:35 - 5:33; 9:53 - 11:38**
2. What was the role of the Kook family (father and son) in Religious Zionist thought and leadership? | **Timecode: 5:34 - 8:24**
3. What is the role of Christian Zionism in Christian and Jewish history? | **Timecode: 19:56 - 26:32**
4. What are the religious roots of secular Western anti-Zionism? | **Timecode: 26:53 - 29:30**
5. How does the medieval blood libel repeat itself today? | **Timecode: 33:19 - 34:53**
6. What was the role of Western powers in the development of the Middle East? | **Timecode: 35:09 - 37:43**

### OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

1. How does what you have learned about the initial religious reaction to Zionism impact your understanding of Labor Zionism's "New Jew" movement?
2. Should secular Jews engage in dialogue and argument with religious Jews who argue against Zionism from the perspective of the Three Oaths?
3. Neturei Karta are currently a minority within the religious Jewish world, but maintain beliefs that were held by the majority a century ago. Should either of those facts impact the validity and truth of their beliefs?

### PRIMARY SOURCES FOR CONVERSATION

1. [The Three Oaths](#)
2. ['Oh! Weep for Those' by Lord Byron](#)
3. [Balfour Declaration](#)
4. [Eretz Israel \(The Land of Israel\)](#), by Rav Kook
5. [Johnny Cash in the Holy Land](#) by Shalom Goldman